



Office of
RESEARCH &
STRATEGIC PLANNING

IS THIS DATA WORTH ANYTHING?

Data for Decision Making Seminar
Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)
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Simon Bauer-Leffler, Research Specialist



Introduction

- ❑ **Discuss evaluation**
- ❑ **Data collection**
- ❑ **Lessons learned**
- ❑ **Making policy decisions**
- ❑ **Is this data worth anything?**

Research Questions

- **Governor's Commission on Prison Overcrowding Report (2009)**
 - **Does community corrections reduce recidivism?**
 - **Is community corrections an adequate alternative to incarceration?**
 - **Are the treatments received appropriate for the level of risk of the offender?**

Conceptualization

- **Always look to previous research**
 - **Risk and Needs Principle**
 - **Supervision and services should be matched to the risk level of the offender.**
 - **Targets interventions to address characteristics that have the most effect on the likelihood of re-offending.**
 - **Offenders with higher risks should receive more treatment.**

Data Collection

- **Management Information Systems**
 - **Standardized data is more meaningful, more comparable, and easier to exchange and store.**
- **Community Corrections Information System (CCIS)**
 - **Data on treatment services and supervision**
- **Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI)**
 - **Data on risk and needs**

Initial Results

		Alcohol and Drug Problems Risk		
		No High Risk	High Risk	Total
Received Substance Abuse Treatment	Count	1023	1185	2208
	% receiving at least 1 substance abuse treatment	46.3%	53.7%	100.0%

What does this data mean?

- If the data is good= community corrections are not providing substance abuse services to almost half of offenders who have high substance abuse risks.
- If the data is bad= community corrections may be providing services correctly but our systems were not capturing that information.
- Sensitivity= data collection instruments should be sensitive enough to pick up on patterns and rare cases.
 - What might we be missing?

Management Information System Issues

- ❑ **Management information systems don't record the absence of data.**
- ❑ **Commas, quotation marks and semi-colons.**
- ❑ **The two systems do not communicate with each other.**
- ❑ **Difficulty getting information out of the system.**
- ❑ **Require outside support services**

Availability and Timing

□ Availability

- Design management information systems to output data in a format conducive to analysis.
- Make sure your data can be related to other data sources you intend to use in your analysis.

□ Timing

- Consider how you want the data to be output.
- Clean data leads to faster analysis and reporting

Data collection Issues

- **Data entry problems**
 - **Lack of standardized definitions**
 - **Lack of data entry manual**
 - **Use of jargon**
 - **Try to measure behaviors**

- **Personnel Issues**
 - **No supervision of data quality**
 - **Inadequate training**

Validity, Consistency and Sensitivity

□ Validity

- Create data entry manual
- Train users using common definitions

□ Consistency

- Check data against paper records
- Check data versus monthly reports

□ Sensitivity

- Monitor data for inconsistencies

Quality Assessment

- ❑ Establishment of JCEBP
- ❑ Each DRC is creating a data entry policy
- ❑ Monitor programs for compliance
- ❑ Establish minimum training requirements
- ❑ Teach motivational interviewing
- ❑ Establish, training, quality, and online security policies.

Making Policy Decisions

- ❑ Limited funds
- ❑ Evidence based programming
- ❑ Data standardization

- ❑ Community Corrections Subcommittee
 - ❑ Makes decisions based on absence/presence of data.
 - ❑ Rewards DRCs that perform.
 - ❑ Reward evidence based programming.

Is this data worth anything?

- Yes
 - WV has one of the only community corrections data tracking systems.
 - Data helps us refine the community corrections system to be more in line with best practices.
 - Data allows us to communicate key performance indicators to DRC to improve expand service.
 - All of the above will help with prison overcrowding

Contact

Simon Bauer-Leffler, Research Specialist I

Office of Research and Strategic Planning

Division of Justice and Community Services

Phone: 304/558-8814

Email: simon.c.bauer-leffler@wv.gov